

**Weekend diary**

There's good food, wine, art, sport, Johnny Clegg and loads of other action happening this weekend. Take your pick.



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ON THIS DAY**Tuesday, May 11**

11/05/2004 07:09 - (SA)

Today is Tuesday, May 11, the 131st day of 2004. There are 234 days left in the year.

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Highlights in history on this date:

- **1507** - France annexes Genoa in Italy.
- **1745** - French under Marshal Saxe defeat English at Fontenoy and conquer Austrian Netherlands.
- **1812** - Britain's Tory Premier Spencer Perceval is assassinated by a madman in the House of Commons.
- **1824** - British forces take Rangoon in Burma - now Myanmar - during the first Anglo-Burmese war.
- **1860** - The Expedition of the Thousand under Giuseppe Garibaldi lands in Sicily to overthrow the Bourbon kingdom and ultimately create modern Italy.

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• **1909** - The South Africa Act is signed, after being passed by Parliament in Cape Town. (In terms of the Act, the Cape, Transvaal, Natal and Free State provinces will unite to become the Union of South Africa on May 31, 1910.)

• **1943** - US forces land at Attu in Aleutian Islands in World War II. It is first American territory regained from Japan.

• **1944** - Allied forces launch a major offensive in central Italy.

• **1947** - The BF Goodrich Co of Akron, Ohio, announces the development of a tubeless tire.

• **1949** - Israel is admitted to the United Nations; Siam changes its name to Thailand.

• **1971** - The ancient temples at Angkor Wat are damaged by artillery fire in fighting between the Cambodian government and communist forces.

• **1973** - Lower House of West German legislature ratifies treaty establishing formal relations between the two halves of divided Germany; charges against Daniel Ellsberg for his role in the Pentagon Papers case are dismissed by Judge William M. Byrne, who cites government misconduct.

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- **1975** - Laos Premier Souvanna Phouma concedes communist victory in his country.
- **1985** - More than 50 people die when a flash fire sweeps a packed soccer stadium in Bradford, England.
- **1987** - Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government imposes direct federal control of Punjab State due to violence by Sikh separatists.
- **1987** - Former Transkeian President Kaiser Matanzima is served with a banning order by his brother George, the Prime Minister.
- **1987** - The Anti-Apartheid Movement in London ends its 17-year boycott of Barclays Bank for its South African ties.
- **1988** - Guatemalan army says it quashed military coup attempt on President Vinicio Cerezo's civilian government.
- **1988** - A report by the US Department of Mines claims that a ban on imports of South African minerals will cost the US the equivalent of R4 billion a year. The report comes as legislation containing new trade curbs is being considered by the US Congress.
- **1992** - Arabs and Israelis begin talks on halting the flood of weapons in the Middle East.
- **1993** - Fire in a Thailand doll factory kills at least 188.
- **1994** - Southern forces fire a Scud missile into the northern capital of San'a, Yemen, killing 25 people.
- **1995** - A global conference at the United Nations decides to extend the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty indefinitely.
- **1995** - An underground accident at the Vaal Reefs gold mine 150km south-west of Johannesburg claims the lives of 102 miners.
- **1996** - A tornado rips through northern Bangladesh, killing more than 600 villagers and injuring at least 34 000.
- **1997** - The Deep Blue IBM computer becomes the first to defeat the world chess champion, winning a six-game match against Garry Kasparov in New York.
- **1998** - India conducts three underground nuclear tests, the country's first since 1974 and the world's first since 1996; a French mint produces the first coins of Europe's single currency, the euro.
- **1999** - NATO bombs a wide swath of Yugoslavia, saying it does not believe Slobodan Milosevic has begun withdrawing his forces from Kosovo.
- 2000 - With the birth of a baby girl named Astha - "Faith" in Hindi - India's population officially hits 1 billion.
- **2001** - A Dutch court convicts seven men in the deaths of 58 Chinese migrants who suffocated in a truck container while seeking a better life in Britain.
- **2002** - Diane Pretty, 43, a woman stricken with motor neuron disease who unsuccessfully petitioned British and European courts for the right to have her husband assist in her suicide, dies from the very complications she sought to avoid.

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- **2003** - US Secretary of State Colin Powell meets with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to discuss a "road map" for Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.

Today's Birthdays:

Baron Munchhausen, German storyteller (1720-1797); Irving Berlin, US songwriter (1888-1989); Paul Nash, British artist (1889-1946); Salvador Dali, Spanish artist (1904-1989); Richard P. Feynman, US physicist (1918-1988); Mort Sahl, US comedian (1927--); Mark Herndon, drummer with country group Alabama (1955--).

Thought For Today:

We carry our nemesis within us: yesterday's self-admiration is the legitimate father of today's feeling of guilt - Dag Hammarskjold, UN secretary-general (1905-1961).
- Sapa-AP

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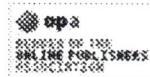


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